

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01

IO-03 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

DHA-02 /041 W

----- 045342

O 031620Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3417

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6056

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG PINS US PFOR

SUBJECT: ABORTIVE COUP:

EVENTS OF JULY 2

REF: KINSHASA 6001

1. SPEED WITH WHICH "PLOT" DEVELOPMENTS ARE UNFOLDING COMPLICATES ALREADY DIFFICULT TASK OF TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE. UNTIL DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF JULY 2 (REFTEL) IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ENTERTAIN NUMBER OF HYPOTHESES (NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE) TO EFFECT MOBUTU MIGHT SIMPLY BE UP TO SOMETHING. WAS HE USING POSSIBLY INNOCUOUS INDISCRETIONS BY GENERAL FALLU AND ARMY OFFICERS TO INSTILL GREATER LOYALTY AND DISCIPLINE IN ARMY? WAS HE PRUDENTLY DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM CIA IN LIGHT OF INVESTIGATIONS OF ITS OPERATIONS? WAS HE STRIKING BOLD ANTI-IMPERALIST POSTURE SO AS TO IMPROVE HIS CHANCES OF PERSUADING OAU CHIEFS OF STATE THIS MONTH IN KAMPALA THAT CABINDA SHOULD HAVE CHANCE FOR INDEPENDENCE? WAS HE ATTEMPTING TO BRING HIS OWN CONSERVATIVES TO HEEL? WAS HE MAKING CASE FOR EXPELLING AMBASSADOR HINTON?

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2. NOW I BELIEVE WE MUST ASSUME THAT MOBUTU FEELS

GENUINELY THREATENED. WHATEVER THEIR PROVOCATION, JULY 2 MEASURES HAVE WEAKENED MOBUTU. HIS PRESTIGE WITH MILITARY LEADERS HAS PROBABLY SUFFERED, HIS POLITICAL FRIENDS IN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND POLITICAL BUREAU MUST BE IN DISARRAY, AND HIS WARNINGS THAT MORE PURGES LIE AHEAD CAN ONLY BE UNSETTLING FOR MILITARY AND POLITICIANS ALIKE. MOBUTU CANNOT HAVE TAKEN JULY 2 DECISIONS LIGHTLY.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR US ARE IMPORTANT. LINK BETWEEN "PLOT" AND US HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY INTRODUCTION OF NDELE INTO CAST OF CHARACTERS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, PAST CHARGES HERE OF USG INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT ARE BOUND TO TAKE ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE BOTH IN MOBUTU'S EYES AND IN THOSE OF ANY INTERNAL ENEMIES NOW THAT "PLOT" IS TAKING ON SHAPE OF WIDESPREAD CONSPIRACY. WITHOUT A MOVE ON OUR PART WE MAY HAVE BECOME OBJECT OF GENUINE CONCERN TO MOBUTU. NOT ONLY MAY HE BELIEVE USG HAS "PLOTTED", BUT HIS ACTIONS AND CHARGES MAY HAVE GIVEN DISGRUNTLED ELEMENTS IN ZAIRE NEW REASON TO BELIEVE US MIGHT IN FACT SUPPORT A MOVE AGAINST MOBUTU, THUS ENCOURAGING THE VERY THING MOBUTU IS SEEKING TO SQUELCH.

4. IN PAST, CRISES SUCH AS PRESENT ONE HAVE TENDED TO COOL OFF AS MOBUTU CALMED DOWN OR TURNED TO OTHER THINGS. NEXT FEW DAYS SHOULD TELL IF THIS IS AGAIN TO BE THE PATTERN.

ANDREW

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PLOTS, ALLEGATIONS  
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